

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 /085 W

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P R 061901Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8814

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE CITY

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 0728

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PBOR BB BH GT UK US

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER BARROW BLASTS USG AND HMG ON BELIZE-  
GUATEMALA TERRITORIAL DISPUTE

1. IN CBC (GOB-OWNED) RADIO:TV INTERVIEW AIRED ON MAY 2, BARBADIAN PM ERROL W. BARROW, SPEAKING FOR BARBADOS AND CONSIDERING THE KINGSTON COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE VENUE OF THE INTERVIEW, OTHER COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES AS WELL, SIAD THAT HIS COUNTRY WOULD VIGOROUSLY OPPOSE ANY BRITISH OR AMERICAN ATTEMPT TO DIVIDE BELIZE. HE NOTED THAT USG COULD HELP RESOLVE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE BETWEEN BELIZE AND GUATEMALA. ACCORDING TO BARROW, "USG HAS BEEN USING GUATEMALA AS A BASE AND HAS BEEN POURING IN A LOT OF MONEY TO SUPPORT A CORRUPT AND UNDEMOCRATIC MILITARY REGIME." BARROW ADDED "IF THE USG TOLD THE GUATEMALANS THAT THEY MUST CEASE IN THEIR UNJUSTIFIED CLAIMS AGAINST BELIZE, THEN THEY WOULD GET THE MESSAGE BECAUSE THE GUATEMALANS DO RESPECT MONEY." CLAIMING THAT HMG HAS BEEN DEVIOUS ON BELIZE-GUATEMALA TERRITORIAL DISPUTE, BARROW SAID IT WAS HIS  
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"UNDERSTANDING" THAT HMG HAD EVEN MADE PROPOSAL TO DIVIDE BELIZE

AND HAND OVER HALF TO GUATEMALA. IN REVEALING FUTURE POLICY THAT BARBADOS AND PRESUMABLY THE OTHER INDEPENDENT CARICOM COUNTRIES WILL FOLLOW ON BELIZE, BARROW SAID "IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE USG AND HMG, WE ARE GOING TO BE VERY FRANK AND ASK THEM TO COME OUT OPENLY OR WE ARE GOING TO MAKE BELIZE AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE."

2. FYI LAST YEAR, THE CARICOM HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AT THE FIRST SUCH CONFERENCE IN CASTRIES, ST. LUCIA DECLARED "THEIR JOINT DETERMINATION TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT AND ASSIST THE BELIZEAN PEOPLE TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE AND TO SECURE AND PRESERVE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF BELIZE."

3. COMMENT: CONSIDERING BARROW'S PAST FEARS OF USG INTERFERENCE IN BARBADOS' INTERNAL AFFAIRS, HIS SUGGESTION THAT THE USG COULD INTERVENE WITH GUATEMALA TO SOLVE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE COMES AS A REVERSAL OF HIS PAST POSITION. OBVIOUSLY BARROW'S RAMBLING STATEMENT WAS NOT PARTICULARLY WELL THOUGHT OUT AND REFLECTED A "GUT-REACTION" UPON HIS PART SINCE HE DICTATED GUATEMALA AS A CLIENT STATE WHICH COULD BE INFLUENCED BY U.S. MONEY. THE PM IS NOT KNOWN FOR SPARING THE FEELINGS OF FRIEND OR FOE COUNTRIES, BY HIS SHOTGUN-TYPE STATEMENTS.

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**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, BB, BH, GT, UK, US, (BARROW, ERROL W)  
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